CHAPTER VI

REALITY AND THE COSMIC ILLUSION

The Btemal is true; the world is a lie.
Vi-vekachudamani.^

The Master of Maya creates this world by his Maya and within it is confined another; one should know his Maya as Nature and the Master of Maya as the great Lord of all.
Swetaswatara Upanishad^

The Purusha is all this that is, what has-been and what is yet to be; he is the master of Immortality and he is whatever grows by food.
Swetaswatara Upanishad.^

All is the Divine Being.
Gita.§

BUT so far we have only cleared a part of the foreground of the field of inquiry; in the back-ground the problem remains unsolved and entire- It is the problem of the nature of the original Consciousness or Power that has created or concep-lively constructed or manifested the universe, and the relation to it of our world-cognition, —in sum,. whether the universe is a figment of consciousness- imposed on our mind by a supreme force of Illusion or a true formation of being experienced by us with a still ignorant but an increasing knowledge. And the true question is not of Mind alone or of a cosmic dream or a cosmic hallucination born of Mind, but of the nature of the Reality, the validity

* Verse 20. + IV. 9, 10. *t* III. 15. § VII. 19.